

Tuition to Rise, Loans Fall: Students Strike

by Genevieve Morin

ANEQ (l'Association nationale des étudiant-e-s du Québec) is holding a province-wide student strike today (November 15) to protest the government's planned hike

in tuition and lowering of bursaries revealed in an internal working document recently obtained from the Quebec Treasury Board.

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Education refused to make any

more cuts in post-secondary institutions, basically admitting that no more cuts could be made. Now the Treasury Board, the government department in charge of revenues, is trying to institute measures that

would raise tuition and, at the same time, lower access to loans and bursaries.

At the university level, there is a proposed 10 per cent increase in tuition for Quebec residents, along with a \$1,000 increase for students from other provinces. This is combined with a decrease of about \$900 million in research funds for non-priority (non-high technology) areas.

Plans are also being made for the imposition of \$25 to \$100 fees per semester at the CEGEP level (which is currently free).

SOLECISM

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CUSA Holds Info Day

by Paul Gott

CUSA (the Concordia University Students' Association) has come out in support of ANEQ's day of protest, November 15. But, as a result of the current state of awareness of the issues at Concordia (and other anglophone universities and CEGEPs in the province), CUSA has opted against participating in a general strike and has instead organized an information day.

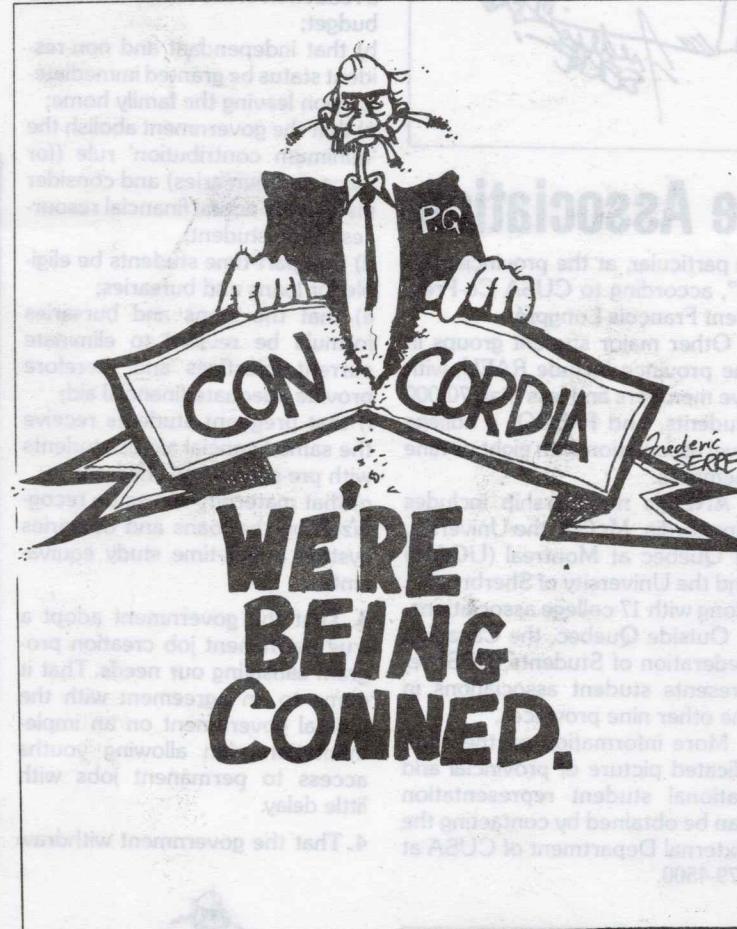
While other Quebec institutions have publicized events such as government cutbacks recently, CUSA has been fighting these on an internal basis. ANEQ's day of protest was seen by CUSA's External Department as an excellent opportunity to sensitize Concordia students to issues affecting their education.

In the words of Genevieve Morin, External Vice-President of CUSA, "If we joined in the strike, students wouldn't know what they were striking for."

The CUSA Position

CUSA's Board of Directors recently adopted a motion calling for an increase in the post-secondary education budget. It was felt that fees could not increase, nor anything be imposed at the CEGEP level without sinking the whole concept of an accessible post-secondary education.

On the subject of loans and bursaries, CUSA, like ANEQ, is asking for the abolition of the 'minimum contribution' which asks students to contribute a certain amount of money to their education whether they ever earned this



amount or not.

According to Morin, "We believe that the real financial means of students should be taken into consideration rather than some arbitrary number being set."

CUSA is also supporting a contention to transform all loans into bursaries.

"We believe that students who

can't afford to pay for their education shouldn't have to be ten thousand dollars in debt by the time they complete their studies," says Morin, who also cites a need for a complete revision of the current financial aid system to "avoid the injustices" in the system now.

Needs of pregnant students,
(continued on page 4)



Loans and Bursaries

The present proposal from the Treasury Board would change all student bursaries into loans for students in non-priority areas. This would mean a debt increase of \$2,200 per year of study for 35 thousand students.

Another proposal being considered would change "only" \$150 of bursaries into loans for students in non-priority areas. This would still affect 35 thousand students by increasing their debt when they leave university.

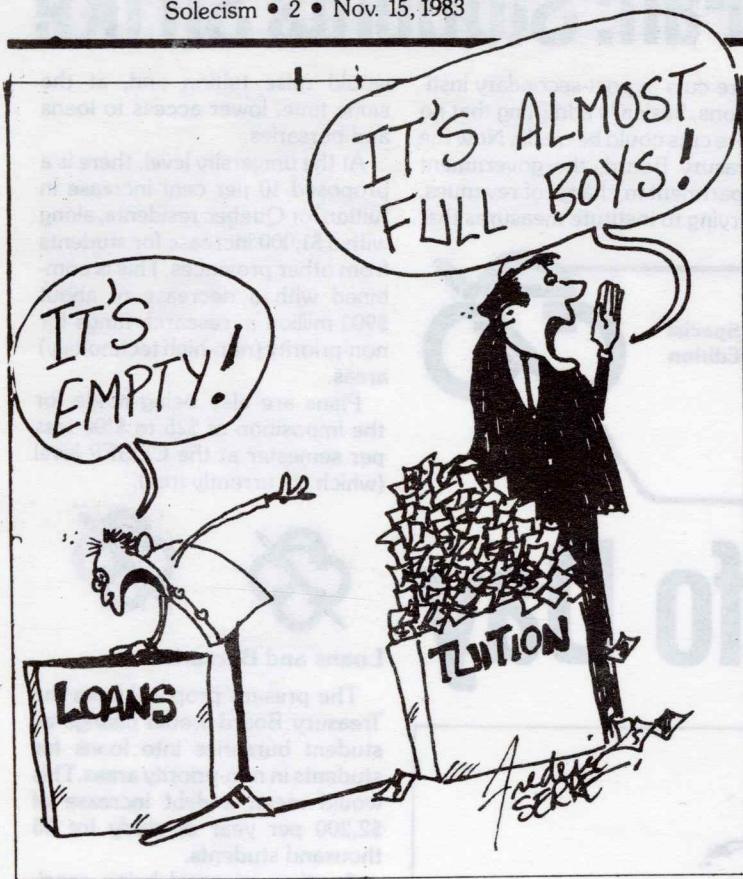
Both proposals, while cutting students in most areas, still would not give one additional penny to students in high-technology disciplines.



Day of Protest

Present welfare laws give people under 30 \$149 a month. Now the government has proposed a "voluntary" service where people on welfare would get an additional \$100 a month for 30 hours of work a week. People not participating would have their checks cut to \$89 a month.

It is around these issues — making money at the expense of students — that ANEQ has organized today's day of protest. Most of ANEQ's members will be staging a strike, while CUSA is holding an information day at Concordia to inform students of the issues.



Our Quebec-Wide Association

by Paul Gott

ANEQ (l'Association nationale des Étudiant-e-s du Québec) is presently the largest student group in the province of Quebec with over 130,000 members in 21 universities and CEGEPs.

In a referendum held during CUSA's General Elections in March of last year, students at Concordia voted 56 per cent in favour of joining ANEQ. This was a clear mandate, soundly beating the other two options presented: that of staying in RAEU, a rival student group to which CUSA belonged at the time, and of not belonging to any province-wide association.

CUSA itself lobbied for joining ANEQ at the time because it was felt that "ANEQ would be better able to represent Quebec students in general, and Concordia students

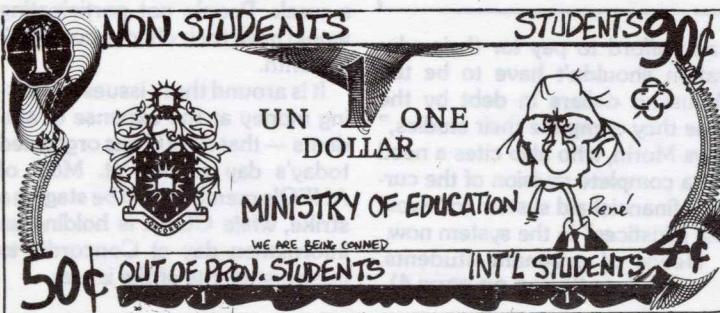
in particular, at the provincial level", according to CUSA Co-President François Longpré.

Other major student groups in the province include RAEU, with five members and less than 70,000 students, and FAECQ, a college level association with eight or nine members.

ANEQ's membership includes Concordia, McGill, the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM) and the University of Sherbrooke, along with 17 college associations.

Outside Quebec, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) represents student associations in the other nine provinces.

More information on the complicated picture of provincial and national student representation can be obtained by contacting the External Department of CUSA at 879-4500.



ANEQ's Demands fr

Following is a list of ANEQ's demands from the government as adopted on November 4, 5 and 6 at its General Congress. This platform has been presented to the government and is the basis of the strike today. If these demands are not met, ANEQ is considering holding a general unlimited strike in February.

1. That the student financial aid budget be substantially increased to allow a greater number of youths to study without incurring debts.

2. That the government proceed to a complete reform of the loans and bursaries system as follows:

a) that loans be abolished without a reduction of the total financial aid budget;
b) that independent and non-resident status be granted immediately upon leaving the family home;
c) that the government abolish the 'minimum contribution' rule (for loans and bursaries) and consider instead the actual financial resources of the student;

d) that part-time students be eligible for loans and bursaries;
e) that the loans and bursaries formula be revised to eliminate current injustices and therefore provide adequate financial aid;

f) that pregnant students receive the same financial aid as students with pre-school age children;
g) that maternity leaves be recognized by the loans and bursaries system as full-time study equivalent.

3. That the government adopt a true permanent job creation program satisfying our needs. That it come to an agreement with the federal government on an implementation plan allowing youths access to permanent jobs with little delay.

4. That the government withdraw

If you are concerned about the published here, you are encouraged to contact CUSA's External Department in (879-4500) for more information.

If you disagree with some of the demands elaborated here are the government, for lack of a clear policy on certain points. They will be brought up and so any input would be most welcome.

Remember, CUSA is your student association in how it runs.

the "Young Volunteers Action" program (for people on welfare), and that we oppose the eventual creation of work brigades and cuts in social welfare payments to persons under 30 to force them to join such work brigades.

5. That a free day-care centre sys-

PETITION

We, the undersigned, demand from the government to stop undermining the rights of Quebec youth among other things, withdrawing from the post-secondary education through the loans and bursaries system etc. Quebec youth also have the right to the unemployment problem by a program to satisfy our needs. We ask the government to operation to improve the living and working conditions and to abandon its students' association (Bill 32).

Name _____



Please return this petition to the Hall Building at Sir George; room 101 at Loyola.

From the Government

The issues presented in the articles encouraged (and prodded) to contact room H-639 of the Hall Building on how you can help.

of the positions presented, you are the Department. Most of the positions of the External Department from the Board of Directors ought to the Board shortly, though, best appreciated.

Student association. You have a voice

- That the next budget of the Quebec government include a real increase in the education budget.
- That a free tuition system be established.
- That we simply reject the draft collegial studies regulations (PREC).



- That the government proceed with the creation of new CEGEPs to satisfy the current space needs and absorb future increases in clientele.

- That the systematic negotiation of course outlines be made possible in all classes.

- That a free school day be planned each semester to evaluate the quality and pertinence of the education received, and the contents of government policy and programs to allow students to develop their own academic programs.

- That steps be taken to ensure the even value of the Diploma of Collegial Studies from CEGEPs across Quebec.

- That Bill 32 be abolished.

Translated from the November 14 edition of Québec Étudiante, ANEQ's official newsletter.

Faculty

ITION

om the Quebec government that it of youths to quality education by, its draft collegial studies regulation to guarantee accessibility to high free tuition, a complete reform in, the abolition of program quotas, right to see the government tackle adopting a true job creation pro- ask that the government launch an and studying conditions of students associations destabilization program

Faculty

The CUSA offices: room H-639 of the CH-201 of the Centennial Build-



WHAT A
PAIN IN
ANEQ EH?

NO TO
UNEMPLOYMENT
CUTBACKS

NO TO
TUITION
HIKES!

Frederic SERRE

Law 32: A Gov't Attack

by Paul Gott

The Quebec government passed a law this summer which is seen by many student associations in the province as a blatant attempt at government interference and meddling in the affairs of student associations.

The Law 32, calls for all student associations to seek accreditation from the government to become officially recognized and, therefore, legally be entitled to space and money from their respective universities or CEGEPs.

The problem with the Law is that it gives direct and total power over the accreditation process to an appointee of the Minister of Education. Elections would be called and run by this Accreditation Agent. Any appeal of the Agent's decisions could only be made to a five-member Accreditation Board whose members, again, are all appointed by the Minister of Education.

Another problem is that, to become accredited, an association

must get over 25 per cent of the students to vote in favour of it (with fewer voting against). This would be virtually impossible for a large institution, such as Concordia, where turn-outs of ten per cent of the student body for elections are almost unheard of.

This Law has already caused problems for the student associations at the CEGEPs of Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Bois-de-Boulogne where their administrations have refused to collect any further fees for the associations because they haven't been officially accredited.

Relations between CUSA and the Concordia administration seem to point to no problems for Concordia's student association in the near future, but the Law puts any non-government approved association's long-term future in doubt.

This attack on the autonomy of student associations by the government is one of the issues being protested by ANEQ and CUSA during the Day of Protest.

Info Day

(continued from page 1)

and the incomes of single parents after a divorce not being taken into account when loans and bursaries are distributed are two examples of the non-functioning of the present system, according to Morin.

Welfare and Unemployment

On the subject of the government's current plan to ask welfare recipients to work 30 hours a week for an additional \$100 a month (on top of \$149 already received) or face cuts of \$60, Morin cites this is an easy out for a tough problem. "We (CUSA) believe such a program cannot be called 'voluntary', and that instead of instituting this system of cheap labour, the government should look into ways of creating real jobs for these people," she says.

Morin also remarks on the government's lack of headway in the area of youth unemployment (which currently runs at over 20 per cent in Quebec).

It is for these reasons, she says, that CUSA is supporting ANEQ on its day of protest. The day has a very simple message: "We are simply asking for the government to start listening to students' demands and to their suggestions for change," says Morin.

Solecism is published on a mysteriously interim basis by the Concordia University Students' Association Inc. (CUSA). It deals with issues that directly affect Concordia students and the quality of their education.

Anyone wishing to contribute articles, ideas or aid in production are extremely welcome and encouraged to contact the editor, Paul Gott, 879-4500 or 482-9280.

The articles published here do not necessarily represent the views of CUSA or its members.

Special thanks this issue to Gordon Ritchie for his expert aid in production; to Francois Longpre for his translation and memory; to Genevieve Morin and the External Committee; and to Steve and Anne for being there. You're wonderful people, all of you. (No joshin' now...) - P.G.

DAY OF PROTEST

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15



LOANS AND BURSARIES GOING DOWN

TUITION GOING UP

WE'RE BEING CONNED

SIGN THE PETITION

ON THE MEZZANINE OF THE HALL BUILDING
TO BE SENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC

